

Remarks

Claims 1-6 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 11 has been amended. Claims 9 and 11-16 are now pending after entry of this amendment.

Claim Amendment

Claim 11 is amended to include the limitation of "an effect amount," which finds its support in the original claim 10.

35 U.S.C. §112, Rejection

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim cancellation and the amendment to claim 11 should be able to overcome this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Altman et al. (WO 03/020278) (hereafter "Altman"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reason.

WO 03/020278 has a publication date of March 13, 2003 and an international filing of date of August 29, 2002. In contrast, the instant application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) to Swedish Application No. 0201976-8 filed on June 24, 2002, a certified copy of which should have been communicated to the USPTO by the International Bureau. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are supported by the Swedish Application and, thus, are entitled to the priority date of June 24, 2002. As a result, the Altman reference is not qualified as a prior art reference under §102 by virtue of a later date and, thus, is not a prior art reference under §103(a). For this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentable and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having responded all the objections and rejections, Applicants believe the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request a speedy Office Action so indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: May 22, 2006

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